

Isaiah 63: 7 – 14; Luke 24: 36 – 49

‘Resurrection: Luke Part 1’

Introduction ...

The whole of Jesus’ life and ministry has been leading up to this ... but what is **‘this’**?

There would be different answers given in different eras of the Christian Church and in different strands of Christian tradition.

The whole of Jesus’ life and ministry has been leading up to this ...

This: in Reformation times **this** was seen mainly as the death of Christ on the cross – a ‘once’ and for all’ sacrifice for our sins. There’s little of Resurrection or the Holy Spirit, of Easter or of Pentecost in the Book of Common Prayer.

And it wasn’t until liturgical revisions in the last half of the last century that a greater emphasis on Easter was made ... still the cross and forgiveness but also hope and new life.

‘This’ was understood to be the Cross and the Resurrection together. But that’s not sufficient either.

Think again of **Luke 24: 46 and 47:**

Jesus said to them ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead’

so Cross and Resurrection ... but continuing:

‘and that repentance and forgiveness of sin is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations’

plus in **verse 49 ‘stay here until you have been clothed with power from on high’**

Good Friday, Easter Day, Pentecost and the spreading of all of the associated good news.

The whole of Jesus’ life and ministry has been leading up to **this**.

This being the taking out of the Good News of Good Friday, Easter Day and Pentecost – this Good News – to all people.

It’s not surprising that we find these verses in Luke ... because for him, the Cross and Resurrection end part 1 of the story ... part 2 begins with the opening of his other New Testament book – the Acts of the apostles.

For us ...

Perhaps a timely reminder for us: Jesus came, lived, died, rose again – for each of us – yes ... so that each of us can experience his forgiveness, inspiration, love and hope – yes – but he also came to empower us with his Holy Spirit – to proclaim the Good News in his name.

Or as in the opening words of our Old Testament: **Isaiah 63: 7**

**'I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord
because of all that the Lord has done for us'**

Conclusion ...

Jesus offers us so much in this life that is such good news ... and also the assurance of life through and beyond death, so I'm concluding with this quote:

**When I enter that beautiful city
and the saints all around me appear
I hope that someone will tell me
It was me that invited them there.**